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MORAN, RANDAL D				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,069

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, EMRYS

Examiner

RANDAL D. MORAN

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2008 and 08 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36, 38-52 and 54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 38-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-36, 38-52, and 54 are pending.

This Office Action is in response to arguments filed 4/8/2008.

Below, Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art(s) of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claims, other passages and figures may apply as well. Applicant should consider the entire prior art as applicable as to the limitations of the claims. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully each reference in its entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/8/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. **Claims 1-16, 18-33, and 35-53** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hoover (US 6,209,102)**, hereafter "Hoover".

Considering **Claims 1 and 35**, Hoover discloses a method of accepting a pass code (abstract), comprising: providing a user with a machine-generated challenge (column 2- lines 44-46); and receiving, from a user-input device, user input that transforms the machine-generated challenge into a pass code allocated to the user (column 2- lines 47-52), wherein the user input is dependent on the machine-generated challenge such that the user input to transform the machine-generated challenge into the pass code is different for different machine generated challenges (column 3- lines 11-19); generating a response to the challenge from the user input received from the user input device (column 4- lines 34-36), said response allowing the user to be validated against a stored data record of the pass code (column 4- lines 34-36). Hoover does not explicitly disclose transmitting the response to a remote authorization unit to authenticate the response without transmitting the pass code to the remote authorization unit and without generating the pass code from the response prior to said transmitting. Hoover suggests that the user would input to an adjacent row an offset

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digit sequence such that the correct PIN digit sequence was formed when the offset digit sequence row was added to the initially random PIN digit sequence row (column 2- lines 56-61).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the offset digit sequence without transmitting the actual pass code for the benefit of protecting a user's PIN, password, or other access code, from disclosure to an attacker who, directly or indirectly, obtains the sequence of characters inputted by a user to gain access to a transaction (Hoover- column 1- lines 57-60).

Considering **Claims 18, 36, and 38**, Hoover discloses a terminal for use in accepting a pass code (abstract), comprising: an output for providing a user with a machine generated challenge (column 2- lines 44-46); a user input device for receiving user input that transforms the challenge into a pass code allocated to the user (column 2- lines 47-52), wherein the user input is dependent on the machine-generated challenge such that the user input to transform the machine-generated challenge into the pass code is different for different machine generated challenges (column 3- lines 11-19), generate a response to the challenge from the user input received from the user input device, said response allowing the user to be validated against a stored data record of the pass code; and transmitting the response to a remote authorization unit to authenticate the response (column 2- lines 56-61).

Hoover does not explicitly disclose without transmitting the pass code to the remote authorization unit and without generating the pass code from the response prior to said transmitting. Hoover suggests that the user would input to an adjacent row an offset

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digit sequence such that the correct PIN digit sequence was formed when the offset digit sequence row was added to the initially random PIN digit sequence row (column 2- lines 56-61).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the offset digit sequence without transmitting the actual pass code for the benefit of protecting a user's PIN, password, or other access code, from disclosure to an attacker who, directly or indirectly, obtains the sequence of characters inputted by a user to gain access to a transaction (Hoover- column 1- lines 57-60)

Considering **Claims 2, 19, and 39**, Hoover discloses challenge is independent of said pass code (column 3- lines 11-17).

Considering **Claims 3, 20, and 40**, Hoover discloses generating a new challenge for each user validation (column 3- lines 13-16).

Considering **Claims 4, 21, and 42**, Hoover discloses challenge is generated on a random basis (column 3- lines 13-16).

Considering **Claims 5, 22, and 41**, Hoover discloses challenge is generated in response to receiving a request from a user for validation (column 1- lines 1-14, column 3- lines 11-12, column 4- lines 17-18, it is inherent that for access to an electronic service, a request for authorization would be received (i.e. access to an ATM or the like)).

Considering **Claims 6, 23, and 43**, Hoover discloses providing a user with a challenge comprises displaying the challenge to the user (column 2- lines 44-46).

Considering **Claims 7, 24, and 44**, Hoover discloses the challenge is displayed to the user in such a manner as to prevent third parties from viewing the challenge (column 3- lines 1-10).

Considering **Claims 8, 25, and 45**, Hoover discloses the response from the user is received as a set of one or more modifications to be applied to the challenge so that it matches the pass code allocated to the user (column 2- lines 44-52).

Considering **Claims 9, 26, and 46**, Hoover discloses the set of one or more modifications is received as directional input from the user (column 2- lines 50-52).

Considering **Claims 10, 27, and 47**, Hoover discloses the directional input is received as the result of the user pressing one or more arrow keys that increment or decrement the challenge by a fixed amount (column 2- lines 50-52).

Considering **Claims 11, 28, and 48**, Hoover discloses challenge has the same number of characters as the pass code allocated to the user (column 2- lines 47-48).

Considering **Claims 12, 29, and 40**, Hoover discloses transformation is specified individually for each character of the challenge (column 2- lines 48-52).

Considering **Claims 13, 30, and 50**, Hoover discloses receiving an indication from the user that the transformation for a different character is about to be entered (column 2- lines 48-52).

Considering **Claims 14, 31, and 51**, Hoover discloses receiving an indication from the user that the response has been completely entered (Fig. 2- Submit).

Considering **Claims 15, 32, and 52**, Hoover discloses generating an entered pass code from the challenge and from the response (column 3- lines 11-19).

Considering **Claims 16, 33, and 53**, Hoover discloses the response is validated by comparing the generated pass code with the stored data record of the pass code (column 1- lines 6-14).

2. Claims 17, 34, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hoover** in view of **Funk (US 5,721,779)**, hereafter "Funk".

Considering **Claims 17, 34, and 54**, Hoover discloses receiving a communications challenge from the remote authorization unit that has access to said stored data record of the pass code (column 1- lines 6-14, column 2- lines column 44-47); thereby allowing the response input by the user to be validated by said authorization unit against said stored data record of the pass code (column 4- lines 34-36).

Hoover is silent on using the response to encrypt said communications challenge; and transmitting the encrypted communications challenge to the remote authorization unit, thereby allowing the response input by the user to be validated by said remote authorization unit using said stored data record of the pass code.

Funk discloses using the response to encrypt said communications challenge (Funk- column 4- lines 50-52); and transmitting the encrypted communications challenge to the authorization unit (Funk- column 4- lines 66-67), thereby allowing the response input by the user to be validated by said authorization unit against said stored data record of the pass code (Funk- column 4- line 67, column 5- lines 34-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Hoover by using the response

to encrypt said communications challenge; and transmitting the encrypted communications challenge to the authorization unit as taught by Funk for the benefit of enforcing link security for the communication link between the client and the server (Funk- column 3- lines 24-26).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to **Claim 1** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randal D. Moran whose telephone number is 571-270-1255. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. D. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2135

7/20/2008

/H. S./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2135